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*United States Attorney*  
*Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. CONVICTS PRINTER OF PRODUCING FAKE CD COVERS**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that MOHAMED SOW was convicted in Manhattan federal court today on charges of the wholesale counterfeiting of labels for audio compact discs. SOW was convicted after a one-week trial before United States District Judge LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN.

SOW was arrested on April 22, 2002, on copyright infringement charges, and later indicted on similar charges.

It was revealed at trial that SOW operated four copy shops in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn, where he and his employees manufactured and sold thousands of counterfeit labels for CDs, made on color photocopiers. According to trial testimony, approximately 25,000 counterfeit labels were seized by

law enforcement agents at Sow's stores in Manhattan and the Bronx. Sow produced the counterfeit labels at his four stores: Copy Solution Center at 163 W. 121 Street and Fouta Copy Center located at 1941 Seventh Avenue, both in Manhattan; Fouta Fashion located at 1946 and 1942 Westchester Avenue, the Bronx; and Copy Solution Center located at 796 Franklin Avenue, in Brooklyn.

According to the charges and testimony at trial, SOW reproduced CD covers that were later illegally sold with bootlegged compact disks from street vendors. At two locations, SOW operated his counterfeiting operations out of the hidden back sections of his stores, while selling clothing and telephone calling cards to the public from the front portions of the stores.

SOW is scheduled to be sentenced on May 9, 2003, before Judge SWAIN. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 5 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense.

COMEY praised the joint efforts of the United States Secret Service, the New York City Police Department's Bronx District Attorney's Squad, and the Recording Industry Association of America.

Mr. COMEY stated: "Music piracy, such as bogus and counterfeit compact discs and packaging, cost the recording industry millions and millions of dollars each year. It also

causes significant losses to local governments through lost tax revenues and lost jobs, and harms consumers who unknowingly purchase inferior products."

Assistant United States Attorney STEVEN D. FELDMAN is in charge of the prosecution.

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